



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 22, 2008

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – recited at the preceding Public Hearing

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Banach
Councilor Boni
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Bowen
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Councilors Absent

Councilor Lenares
Councilor Nagel

Staff Present:

John L. Salomone, Town Manager
Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant
Ann Harter, Director of Finance
Ed Meehan, Town Planner
Richard Mulhall, Chief of Police

III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A Margo Siderowf, Account Clerk II – Retirement

Mayor Wright read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Marguerite A. Siderowf has been a Newington resident for most of her life and was hired by the Town of Newington as a Clerk Typist II on July 29, 1985; and
WHEREAS, Margo's duties as a Clerk Typist II were to "float" among departments as needed and to work on the Town's switchboard; and
WHEREAS, in 1986 Margo applied for and was awarded the position of Account Clerk in the Finance Department; and

WHEREAS, Margo has ably and professionally performed her duties as Payroll Account Clerk for over 20 years, playing a large role in the implementation of the MUNIS system, as well as being cross-trained to perform other functions in the Finance Department; and
WHEREAS, Margo was actively involved in AFSCME Local 2930, serving as its Treasurer for nearly 20 years; and
WHEREAS, Margo has indicated her intent to retire on July 31 to travel and pursue other ventures;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby extends its appreciation to Marguerite Siderowf for her 23 years of service to the Town of Newington, congratulates her on her retirement, and wishes her much enjoyment in her future endeavors.

Mayor Wright noted that there have been many employees that have worked for the Town for a long time. He stated appreciation for Ms. Siderowf's hard work and stated that it says a lot about the Town when employees stay for twenty-three years or more and stated appreciation for her service.

Ms. Siderowf stated that her time with the Town has been a sheer joy that she has enjoyed immensely. She noted that she has worked for many departments, her favorite of which being the Finance Department. She commented that she has worked for great people and noted that employees are respected and appreciated for their work, which makes employees want to work even harder and better. She stated that it was a tough decision to come to the conclusion to retire.

Councilor Boni congratulated Ms. Siderowf on her retirement and extended his best wishes. Ann Harter, Director of Finance, congratulated Ms. Siderowf on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service. She noted that Ms. Siderowf has always done her job very well. She stated that she hopes Ms. Siderowf has even more fun in her retirement than she did working in the Finance Department.

Public Comment

Mary Hannifan, 88 Eighth Street: Mrs. Hannifan stated that Ms. Siderowf has been a true friend and congratulated her on her retirement.

Mayor Wright again congratulated Ms. Siderowf and wished her the best in her travels.

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel Absent)

B Scott DelBuono, Air National Guard – Retirement

Mayor Wright read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Scott DelBuono is a Newington resident and has lived in Newington with his wife, Beth, and their children, Matthew and Kinsey, since 1982; and
WHEREAS, Scott DelBuono became an active duty member of the U. S. Air Force on August 15, 1986; and
WHEREAS, on June 15, 1990 Scott transferred to the Air National Guard as a member of the 103rd ACS and has been assigned to both the Bradley and Orange Air Bases in Connecticut; and
WHEREAS, during his military career Scott served as an Aviation Communication Specialist, Computer Maintenance Craftsman, Communication and Navigation Systems Specialist, Ground Radio Maintenance Specialist and Telecommunications Specialist; and
WHEREAS, Scott received a number of awards including the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; and
WHEREAS, Scott DelBuono was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant on December 1, 2005; and
WHEREAS, Scott has long been a supporter and proponent of Veterans' rights in Newington and has served as the Commander of the Newington American Legion Post 117 for four years, and was elected as Senior Vice Commander of the Hartford District American Legion in June of 2008; and
WHEREAS, Scott has coached Little League baseball and softball as well as Newington Knights football, and has served on the Board of Directors for the Newington Knights; and
WHEREAS, Scott DelBuono retired from the military on May 3, 2008 after 21 years of service in which he demonstrated exceptional professional skills, leadership and dedication;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby thanks Scott DelBuono for his service to the country and to the residents of Connecticut, congratulates him on his retirement from military service, and wishes him many years of enjoyment with his family and in his professional career.

Mayor Wright congratulated Mr. DelBuono for his many years of dedication to the Town and to the country. He stated that he is sure that Mr. DelBuono will continue to help veterans across the State and region.

Mr. DelBuono stated that it has been an honor to serve the Town of Newington, the State and the nation. He stated that he will continue his fight for more benefits for veterans. He also thanked his family. Mrs. DelBuono congratulated her husband and stated that she is looking forward to having him around on the weekends.

Councilor Nasinnyk thanked Mr. DelBuono and noted the importance of what he has done for the community. Councilor Bottalico congratulated Mr. DelBuono on his retirement. Councilor Bowen thanked Mr. DelBuono for his service to the country and the community and noted that people like Mr. DelBuono help to make the country safe. Councilor Boni congratulated Mr. DelBuono on his retirement and noted that as an Air Force veteran he appreciates all Mr. DelBuono has done for the veterans. Councilor Cohen thanked Mr. DelBuono for his services and remarked that she suspects that he will continue to serve the community. Councilor Banach thanked Mr. DelBuono for his service.

Public Comment

Mike Pizzuto, 290 Old Farms Drive: Mr. Pizzuto thanked Mr. DelBuono for helping to revive the building that houses the American Legion Post 117. He stated that it was a dying building and a dying post until Mr. DelBuono took over. He also thanked the DelBuono family for putting up with all of the time Mr. DelBuono put into his work. He wished Mr. DelBuono the best in his retirement.

Dan DelBuono, Southington resident: Mr. DelBuono stated that he is Scott DelBuono's older brother. He stated that he is also retired from the Air Force, and stated that he is glad his brother chose to go into aviation. He congratulated his brother and wished him luck.

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons spoke in response to Mrs. DelBuono's comments (during the preceding Public Hearing) about the Safety Committee being made a permanent Committee with term limits. She stated agreement that the Committee should have terms, but not at this time. She suggested that the Council let the Committee go for another year and then re-evaluate it and possibly place term limits at that point. Ms. Lyons also commented on public participation at various committees and noted that she has attended several meetings of various committees in which the members seemed shocked to see public participation at their meetings. She noted one Board of Education meeting regarding SROs in which she was personally offended by the Chairman's remarks that members of the public were planted at that meeting. Ms. Lyons also noted that she watched the Downtown Revitalization Committee's public information meeting on television. She noted that while driving into Town from Rocky Hill she noticed the large advertisement for the Tirebiter band in front of Vito's even though the Extravaganza is over, and noted that the planters in front of the business are an obstruction and a disgrace, as they contain dead plants. She stated that the Town should clean up Cedar Street before it starts working on the parking lot.

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A Alter Town Council's Meeting Schedule for August

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for August 26, 2008.

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni.

Councilor Nasinnyk commented that she was surprised to see the date change for the cancelled meeting and noted that at the last meeting the Council discussed canceling the August 12 meeting. She inquired as to what happened to change the date to the August 26 meeting. Town Manager Salomone replied that there are a couple of items in terms of Downtown Revitalization that would be better to get started in early August as opposed to later. Councilor Nasinnyk inquired as to whether any of the Councilors had any preference as to the cancellation date, commenting that she would prefer to cancel the August 12 meeting.

Mayor Wright stated that the primary reason to cancel the second meeting in August is to allow the Downtown Revitalization Committee to bring its RFP to the Council on August 12, which will move the schedule for construction up by two weeks. Councilor Banach agreed with Councilor Nasinnyk and stated that the two-week time period does not seem to be crucial. He stated that he would prefer to cancel the August 12 meeting. Councilor Cohen stated that she does not have a preference. Councilor Bowen stated that he is indifferent, but stated that it would be nice to accommodate the other Councilors' requests if there is no major consequence to doing so.

Councilor Boni noted that the August 26 meeting is just prior to Labor Day weekend and taking that meeting off would make for a nice vacation. Councilor Bottalico stated that he would like to get the Downtown Revitalization project going. Mayor Wright stated that another option is to not cancel any meetings in August, but stated that it is essential that the Council meets on August 12. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she was surprised to see the date, as the previous discussion had been about canceling the August 12 meeting and stated that she has time constraints that week. She commented that the Council is not like other elected bodies that have the opportunity to take the summer off. She stated that while she prefers that the August 12 meeting is cancelled she stated that she will attend the meeting if it is not cancelled.

Mayor Wright inquired as to whether the Council wanted to cancel any meetings in August. Councilor Cohen stated that she does not see a need to schedule two meetings in August if two meetings are not needed. Councilor Bottalico stated that he would like to cancel the August 26 meeting. Councilor Bowen requested feedback from Councilors involved with the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Councilor Banach stated that while he understands the thought process he does not believe that two weeks would make a difference with the Downtown Revitalization project. He stated that he also has time constraints and had expected to cancel the August 12 meeting rather than the August 26 meeting. Mayor Wright commented that his instincts are to not cancel any meetings based on the lack of consensus on the issue.

Motion failed 4-2 (Councilors Banach and Bowen opposed, Councilor Nasinnyk abstained, Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A Overview of Other Post Employment Benefits

Becky Sielman of Milliman, the Town's actuarial firm, presented a slide presentation to the Council on the basics of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncement #45 which addresses accounting for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

GASB

- Sets forth standards followed when the Town puts together its annual financial statements
- Governs all financial statement preparation for all public entities
- Periodically revisits rules and requirements and occasionally makes changes to the rules and regulations
- GASB 45 is a new accounting standard that relates to OPEB – Other Post Employment Benefits with the "Other" meaning other than pension benefits
- The biggest "other" post-employment benefits include medical benefits, dental benefits and life insurance provided to retired Town employees

Why This New Requirement?

- OPEB benefits are part of the compensation – IOU's that are handed to employees each year but aren't cashed in until retirement - the cost of the IOU's should be recognized while the employee is **working**, not while the employee is retired.

- The liability for OPEB benefits is substantial, and potential lenders should be aware of its magnitude.
- OPEB benefits and pension benefits should be treated the same way.

Implementation Dates

- Three year phase-in
- FYE 2008: Phase I government (revenues > \$100 million)
- FYE 2009: Phase II government (revenues \$10 - \$100 million) *Newington falls into this phase, liabilities have already been measured
- FYE 2010: Phase III government (revenues > \$100 million)

The Implicit Rate Subsidy (graph)

- The graph shows the difference between the annual premium for single coverage and the true cost of benefits for employees aged 25-65
- The medical costs are not the same for people of all ages; the older members are more likely to consume medical benefits. The true cost is lower for younger employees and becomes higher as employees get older.
- Newington provides premium sharing with retirees; in general retirees pay 25% of their premium for their own coverage and 100% of premium for dependants with the Town paying the remainder.
- The premium used to determine the cost sharing is the average displayed on the graph, which may be less than the true cost of medical coverage for a 60 year old.
- GASB 45 requires that the true economic cost of providing costs must be measured. Even if retirees pay 100% of the premium the Town still has liability because 100% of the premium is not the same as 100% of the cost.

Councilor Banach inquired whether the evaluation includes both Town and Board of Education employees. Ms. Sielman replied in the affirmative, noting, however, that the different groups may have slightly different benefits. Councilor Bowen inquired whether the true liability is between the shortfall on the left of the graph and the excess on the right. Ms. Sielman replied that older employees cost more than the premium and the younger employees cost less. She stated that GASB 45 is only concerned with the cost of the benefits provided to retirees. She stated that different groups have different eligibilities for retirement benefits.

Calculating the Liability – Discount Rate

- What is the present value of all of those future benefits in terms of today's dollars?
- A discount rate is used to translate today's dollars into future dollars – the higher the discount rate the lower the present value.
- The Town must decide: If we put money aside in a trust, what rate of return can we expect to earn on it?
- If we don't fund these benefits, what rate of return do we get on our general fund?
- There is a strong incentive to set up a trust prefund benefits.

Annual Required Contribution (ARC)

- Normal Cost = the cost of benefits earned this year (this year's IOUs)
- Past Service Cost = pay off the Unfunded Accrued Liability over time (IOUs that have been handed out but not cashed in yet)
- If the Town sets up a trust the sum of these two pieces would be put into the trust. If the Town does not set up a trust the number will be twice as large because it will be calculated at a much less favorable discount rate. If a trust is not set up the Town will not pay the amount, but the benefits will appear to be twice as expensive as if the Town does set up a trust.
- Note that there is no requirement to actually pay this amount – just a requirement to calculate and disclose it.

Number Comparison Scenarios – 8% Discount Rate vs. 4% Discount Rate

- The 8% rate refers to a scenario in which the Town does set up a trust to prefund
- The 4% rate refers to a scenario in which the Town does not set up a trust to prefund
- (The Council was presented detailed slides with the costs and numbers associated with the various scenarios)
- With a trust, the net impact on the budget is about \$372,000, which can be phased in over a period of several years. The amount will increase each year according to payroll increases.

- Without a trust, the liability and annual required contributions will double, and although the Town does not pay more than it currently pays, the net OPEB obligation will appear on the Town's balance sheet. This will affect the Town's long term bond rating.

Councilor Bowen inquired whether the 8% is the experienced return, as opposed to the expected return. Ms. Sielman replied that it is the experienced return.

- The reason that these numbers are lower in the trust scenario is that in the long-term the Town will take advantage of significant investment earnings in the trust to pay for benefits.
- (The Council was presented detailed slides with the costs broken down by various Town departments, and discussed the differing requirements for the various departments including State regulations regarding teachers.)

Net OPEB Obligation

- Balance sheet item
- Cumulative difference between the ARC and what is actually contributed:
 - Payments to an irrevocable trust
 - Spent directly to pay OPEB benefits
 - "Earmarked" funds don't count

Next Steps

- Educate elected officials, taxpayers, employees, and the press about prefunding
- Examine ways in which the overall cost of providing medical benefits can be reduced.
- Evaluate the cost impact of proposed benefit changes in the context of contract negotiations
- Plan for cash flow needed in coming years

Steps to Setting Up a Section 115 Trust

- Setting up a trust cannot be done quickly – plan for the steps involved:
- Ordinance
- Trust document
- One trust or two? Or three?
- Investment consultant – asset allocation, investment policy statement
- Trustee, custodian, investment managers
- Coordinate disbursement process with medical, dental, life insurance providers

Question and answer session followed. Councilor Bottalico inquired when the Town should start planning for the trust fund. Ms. Sielman replied that GASB 45 disclosures must be included in the June 30, 2009 financial statements, so a concrete decision about whether or not to set up a trust must be made by that time, but the trust does not necessarily need to be established by that point. Councilor Bottalico inquired whether the cost is split 50-50 between the Board of Education and the Town. Ms. Sielman replied that the split would be about 63% Town and Police employees with 37% Board of Education Employees. She stated that the amount can be phased in over a number of years. Councilor Bottalico requested the actual dollar amounts. Ms. Harter replied that the Town would be responsible for about \$211,000 and the Board of Education would be responsible for about \$161,000.

Town Manager Salomone stated that it would be appropriate to get a recommendation from the (Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits) Committee and to have the Council decide whether to establish a trust fund. If the Council decides to establish a trust fund it would be set up for next year's budget. Mayor Wright noted a significant surplus in health insurance in the last fiscal year and inquired whether it is possible to use some of that surplus to start the program in the nearer future. Ann Harter replied that it is possible to keep the funds in the Health Benefits Fund until the Town is ready to create the trust. Councilor Bottalico inquired whether the trust would need to be in agreement with the Board of Education. Mayor Wright replied in the affirmative. Councilor Bowen inquired whether Ms. Harter would be willing to do so. Ms. Harter replied in the affirmative and explained that part of the current Health Benefit Fund does go towards paying for retiree benefits. Councilor Bowen inquired whether Ms. Harter can identify exactly which dollars came from which area. Ms. Harter replied in the negative, but stated that the number can be calculated.

Mayor Wright noted that the contributions may change every year. Ms. Sielman stated that there are two sources of volatility: investment volatility and health care inflation volatility. She noted that health care inflation has been greater than general inflation in recent years. She stated that the Town will be required to do evaluations every other year.

Councilor Bowen remarked that this may place more emphasis on retirement benefits, and will identify the true cost to the Town. He stated that this may be used for “bargaining” contracts in the future. Mayor Wright stated that this is a great start, and requested to receive the slides that contain the various scenarios and numbers associated with those scenarios. Ms. Sielman replied that she will have a report containing those numbers within a couple of days.

B Downtown Revitalization Committee Update

At Mayor Wright’s suggestion the Council agreed to table the discussion until the August 12 meeting when more information will be available.

C FEMA Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Town Manager Salomone explained that regions have been established under the Federal Emergency Management Act, and area towns have been meeting to draft a Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to establish mitigation strategies to reduce loss due to various disasters ranging from terrorism to natural disasters. He stated that the proposed plan meets the requirements of the regulation. He stated that the plan will be placed on the August 12 meeting agenda for approval and he suggested that the Town adopts the plan. He noted that the entire report is very lengthy and pointed out a synopsis of the Town on page 116 of the report.

D Overview of Traffic Enforcement Methods

Chief Mulhall provided an overview of various traffic enforcement methods to the Council. He stated that the problem is twofold and includes enforcement on State roads, such as the Berlin Turnpike and Cedar Street, as well as local neighborhood roads. He stated that the Police Department has to perform a balancing act between the two types of roads.

Traffic Enforcement Methods:

- Directed patrols to specific areas at specific times when the Police Department knows that speeding occurs, including rush hour, school traffic or late nights.
- Added traffic analysis equipment, worked with the Town Manager’s office, the Town Planner and the Highway Department to coordinate local traffic authority functions.
- There were a number of roads that were not State Traffic Commission (STC) approved, therefore speed limit signs on these roads were not enforceable. All of these signs were documented with the help of the Highway Department and the problem was corrected late last year. The Town is now in compliance.
- Purchased a covert traffic counter, a small, discreet box which has a set of radar units built in. It is used for traffic analysis and works very well. It is different from the speed trailer that is used as a deterrent.
- When a speeding complaint is received from a neighborhood a patrol officer is directed to the area as much as possible, depending on the workload and calls for service.
- Traffic analysis results are augmented with Community Service Officers, whose primary functions involve quality of life issues.
- The Chief analyzes complaints from various sources and follows up with analysis and enforcement.
- A second analysis machine has been purchased using grant funds, but both units are booked through October.
- Stop signs are not an appropriate STC safety standard to reduce speeding.
- The traffic count is also used to determine enforcement

Councilor Bottalico noted that many of the highest speeds recorded during the recent Fisk Drive analysis occurred between 2:00 – 4:00 in the morning. He also noted that the Police Department will repeat the analysis once school starts. Chief Mulhall confirmed that the analysis will be repeated during the first week of school. Councilor Bottalico noted that he has received a number of complaints from residents of the Culver Street area and noted that no one can stop drivers from cutting through the area. Chief Mulhall agreed and noted that most cut through traffic is comprised of local citizens.

Town Manager Salomone stated that there are also engineering solutions to be considered, including speed bumps, speed humps and other traffic calming methods. He stated that there are traffic engineering solutions that go beyond enforcement. He stated that the Town has purchased temporary speed bumps, but in the long term it needs to look at road design and traffic calming to slow down traffic. He stated that some of these areas

will be discussed during the upcoming budget and noted a project on Back Lane, the dividing line between Rocky Hill and Newington and a back exit to the Glen Oaks condominiums. He stated that the turning radius has been made tighter going in and out of the condominium complex and the cost has been shared with Rocky Hill. He agreed that stop signs are not a good solution to reduce speeding, and commented that they sometimes create accidents rather than prevent them.

Councilor Banach inquired whether consideration can be given to the Town's major intersections including Cedar and Willard, Cedar and Stoddard (? sic), Main and Cedar, etc. He stated that there have been problems with people driving through the red light at the "T" intersection of Cedar and Stoddard (? sic). He stated that concentrated efforts in these areas can help to curb the current "wild west" mentality. Chief Mulhall replied that the Department is already doing so and monitors certain intersections and issues tickets at these intersections on a regular basis. He stated that the Department will continue to do so, but needs to increase its presence.

Councilor Bowen noted Chief Mulhall's statements that many of the people who use local roads as cut-throughs are Town residents. Chief Mulhall replied his comments pertained more to the local residential areas rather than the secondary connectors such as Maple Hill Avenue, etc. Councilor Bowen commented that he is unsure how much the changes to Back Lane will have an impact, noting a dangerous rise in the road. He also noted some aggressive changes that the Town of Farmington has made to Garden Street, one of its streets used as a cut-through, in which it narrowed the street and placed depressions in the road. Chief Mulhall stated that these methods have been investigated and remarked that any changes have to go through the proper procedures.

Councilor Boni inquired as to whether it would be feasible to use cameras in problem areas to take pictures and then send tickets to the offenders. Chief Mulhall replied that doing so is not yet allowed in the State. Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether some of the new stop signs around the center of Town are temporary due to the Garfield Street closure, specifically noting a stop sign on Audubon Avenue. Chief Mulhall replied that the temporary stop sign was placed on Audubon because it is a detour around Garfield Street and contains a long straightaway. He stated that a temporary stop sign was placed on Garfield Street to control the intersection by the Town Hall to keep pedestrians and people being dropped off and picked up in the area safe. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she appreciates the Town's efforts.

Town Manager Salomone noted that some of these ideas will be discussed during next year's budget process. Councilor Bowen inquired about the Police Department's current staffing level. Chief Mulhall replied that the level is at 50 of 51 and that there are background checks underway for recruiting to fill the final vacancy. Town Manager Salomone noted that two new hires are certified Police Officers that do not need to go through the Police Academy and should be on the road sooner. Councilor Bowen inquired as to whether there are any additional retirements on the horizon. Chief Mulhall replied that there are none in the immediate future, and the next one is about nine to fifteen months away.

Chief Mulhall commented (in response to a previous request by Councilor Cohen) regarding defibrillators that the Department is in the process of returning to first responder status, and should be awarded that status in the next three to six months. He stated that donations will be used to purchase the defibrillators.

Councilor Boni inquired as to how the current staffing levels will impact the overtime budget. Chief Mulhall stated that the Department should meet its targets for the year and stated that there should be a substantial reduction in overtime over last year.

Mayor Wright thanked Chief Mulhall for his presentation and his thoughtfulness regarding solutions to the problems.

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| E | High School Emergency Generator |
| 1 | Oversight by NHS Track Renovation Project Building Committee |
| 2 | Amend Architect's Contract/Authorize Development Plans and Specifications |

Town Manager Salomone stated that there is a high school emergency generator in the budget to be split 50-50 between the Town and the Board. He stated that by incorporating the generator into the High School Air Conditioning project the cost of the generator will become eligible for State funding. He requested that the Council incorporate the generator into the project and to incorporate the plans and specifications into the architectural services for the project. Councilor Cohen commented that the generator will be attached to the air conditioning system and noted that the architect had already anticipated some of the work with that in mind. She stated that incorporating the projects will save time and be eligible for reimbursement.

Councilor Cohen moved to waive the rules to vote on agenda items VI.E.1 and VI.E.2. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends Resolution Nos. 2005-40, 2005-58, 2006-48, and 2007-94 to revise the charge of the Newington High School Track Renovation Project Building Committee to include responsibility for the emergency generator project at Newington High School. All other elements of the four prior resolutions remain in full force and effect.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to Chapter 2, Article II, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, hereby accepts the proposal for architectural services for design of the emergency generator installation at Newington High School and authorizes the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, to amend the contract with Friar Associates of Farmington, CT for the High School air conditioning project design for an amount not to exceed \$15,500.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Newington High School Track Replacement Project Building Committee is hereby authorized to proceed with the development of plans and specifications for both the High School emergency generator and Phase II of the High School air conditioning.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

F Education Facilities Project Building Committee – Final Report

Town Manager Salomone explained that as part of the process the Committee has submitted its final report, and that the Council will vote to accept the report and dismiss the Committee at the next meeting. Councilor Bowen noted a balance of \$19,671.71 listed on the report. Councilor Cohen noted that the report will also need the approval of the Board of Education.

G VA Connecticut Health Care System Proposed Development

Mayor Wright updated the Council on the proposed development. He stated that he has met with the Director of the Connecticut VA, and was informed that the VA has sent out an RFP to develop roughly 25 cottage-type housing units for homeless veterans to be built at the VA facilities in Newington. He stated that the process is moving forward, and noted that a Town representative will be on the selection committee for the project. He noted that the area to be developed is located behind the High School on the left-hand side facing the Hospital and stated that the current buildings on the 10-acre site may either be used or torn down for the new development. Mayor Wright stated that the process is moving forward very quickly and remarked that it is a top priority of the VA to find housing for homeless veterans.

Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether the proposed facilities are going to be similar to the Rocky Hill hospital site or will the residents be independent residents. Mayor Wright stated that there are already some veterans living in the existing buildings on the Newington site and stated that while some of the individuals in these new housing units may ultimately use the VA Hospital's services it is not the primary intent. He stated that the purpose is to provide housing to veterans, and noted that those who reside at the housing will be required to pay rent. Councilor Banach inquired as to whether the cottages will be free standing units. Mayor Wright replied that his sense is that they will be free standing or duplex-type units.

H Proposed Amended Job Description – Building Official

Town Manager Salomone noted that the current Building Official, Peter Hobbs, will be retiring from service in Town to fill a vacancy in the Town of Vernon. He stated that he is proposing to revise the job description of the

Building Official position to reflect the current format and to update to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. He stated that the position has been advertised in the Hartford Courant and online. He stated that Mr. Hobbs has given a generous notice and indicated that it is important to fill the position quickly. Councilor Bottalico asked for the salary range for the position. Town Manager Salomone replied that the salary range is not typically included in the job description but stated that the salary range posted for the position is about \$56,000 - \$80,000.

VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- A Conservation Commission
 - 1 Acknowledge Resignation of David Hourigan
 - 2 Appoint a Replacement (none)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of David Hourigan from the Conservation Commission, in accordance with a letter dated July 15, 2008.

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

VIII TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,561.78 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Motion seconded by Councilor Banach. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A Regular Meeting, June 24, 2008

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 24, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

- B Regular Meeting, July 8, 2008

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 8, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

X WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

- A Town Manager Reports

Town Manager Salomone elaborated on the Risk Management section on page two of the report. He stated that the cumulative estimated claims vs. actual are as follows:

	Town	Board of Education
Estimated Claims	\$2,092,000	\$5,888,918
Actual Claims	\$1,583,580	\$5,423,724

He stated that the information will be available on the next report. Councilor Bowen inquired whether that means that the Town is in the black by about \$500,000 and the Board is in the black about \$450,000. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative.

XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cohen reported on the Conservation Commission. She stated that the Commission is concerned with the fact that their ordinance covers its duties regarding wetland concerns, but does not refer to how it handles involvement with conservation of natural resources other than wetlands. She stated that while it is stipulated in the Charter and State Statute it is not in the ordinance and the Commission is trying to determine how to get information from the TPZ regarding projects that may concern the Commission.

Councilor Nasinnyk inquired as to whether Councilor Cohen has received any dollar amount information from the West Meadow Cemetery Committee. Councilor Cohen replied in the negative and indicated that the information should become available at the next Committee meeting.

Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether the Naming Subcommittee has met. Councilor Cohen replied in the negative and stated that the Subcommittee should meet soon. She stated that the two names under consideration are very deserving. Mayor Wright stated that he will push the Deputy Mayor to schedule the meeting.

XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for a very nice Extravaganza and commented that he believes that the financial report will indicate that the event came out on the positive side this year. He also stated that the concert night was great. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that it was a terrific week and very well attended. She stated that the Extravaganza was very well organized and orderly and the cleanup was great. She thanked the volunteers, the Police Department and everyone involved. Mayor Wright echoed the Councilors' statements, and stated that the volunteers did a great job and it was a great week.

Mayor Wright congratulated Councilor Cohen for the fantastic article on the front page of the Hartford Courant that detailed her years of service to the Town.

XIV EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL – not held

XV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares and Councilor Nagel absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council